



**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 25, 2017
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 with ten members present.

Members Present:	Haley Beaupre	Chris Gladora	Adam Raskoskie
	Paul Benton	Katie Lloyd	Martin Zimmerman
	Robert Boyer	Buzz Morley	Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker
	Debra Franklin		

Members Absent: Bryan Hall

Staff Present:	Ben Miller	Keith Sorensen	Dick Winters
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Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Paul Benton at 6:03 PM.

Agenda Item #2 Introductions of members and guests

Also present were Gwen Cook and Greg Clemmer from Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, Kate Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte, Jeff Viscount of Weekly Rides, and Dick Winters of the Mecklenburg County Health Department.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Mr. Viscount stated that the privately organized aggressive driver report is back under development and may be an agenda item at a future BAC meeting.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Ms. Franklin and Ms. Swanzy-Parker pointed out some minor typos in the June minutes. Ms. Franklin made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Morley. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Old Business

There was no old business.

Agenda Item #6 New Business

Greenway underpass design and maintenance – Gwen Cook and Greg Clemmer

Ms. Cook explained that she served as a greenway planner with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation. She is mostly involved on the front end with determining the alignment of future greenways, but understood that the Bicycle Advisory Committee may be interested in how the County addresses greenway underpass design and maintenance.

Ms. Cook defined what an underpass is and explained the limitations of underpass design. The flood modeling required for greenway design per Federal and State storm water regulations requires that underpasses must be built at or barely above the flow level of the creeks. This is because any greenway construction in a stream corridor cannot cause a rise in the hundred year flood level elevation.

Mr. Clemmer then explained his role as Superintendent of Park Operations as it pertains to greenways. He said there is a new class of parks called urban parks and went over the different regions within the county on a map. He went on to describe the hierarchy of roles, coordination, enforcement, and the opening and closing of the parks. There are forty-four miles of mostly paved greenways in the county. Safety on the greenways is a big focus; there will be a greenway patrol unit soon with the County hiring new officers to fill this role. Also, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department currently patrols some of the greenways on bicycle.

The second-most priority is maintenance. Tunnels require cleanout after rain events and flooding. The goal is to get them clear within twenty-four hours, though it is sometimes forty-eight hours or more depending on staff resources and whether more rain is anticipated. Park Operations must gauge their resources in terms of crew staff and equipment availability. There are sometimes staffing conflicts with other events taking place, especially on the weekends. Mr. Clemmer stated that anyone can report a maintenance or operations issue simply by calling 311. A lot of reports come in this way—from citizens seeing a problem and calling it in. Mr. Clemmer also noted that weekend calls will be addressed the following Monday unless it is a major emergency because resources are typically indisposed.

Mr. Raskoskie shared his experience with the Toby Creek greenway being flooded with mud while he was riding it and how dangerous this can be in terms of losing control of the bike and crashing. He also stated that this limits the ability to use these greenways as reliable transportation corridors. Furthermore, he stated that the Parkwood Avenue bridge drains directly onto the greenway underpass, which seems like a dangerous, bad idea. Mr. Raskoskie suggested

maybe there could be better signage warning cyclists to watch out for this, and possibly sign alternate routes if an underpass is flooded. Ms. Cook replied that she is talking to Scott Curry, the City's Pedestrian Program Coordinator, about creating a mid-block path detour for the Toby Creek underpass. Mr. Miller suggested that staff could make a better effort during the design phase of projects to identify detour routes in the event of rain and flooding. Mr. Clemmer also said that due to stream regulations, Park Operations staff have to shovel the mud/sand/debris off the trail and haul it away; they cannot just dump it back into the creek.

Mr. Viscount stated that it is good for us to know the reasons why things are the way they are. He also asked how many tunnels are there. Mr. Clemmer replied that there about ten but they do not all flood the same way. Some actually clean themselves out after a good rain storm. Ms. Beaupre asked how the BAC can help. Mr. Clemmer urged the group to please be smart on the greenways, think about your personal safety, be aware of your surroundings, and call in suspicious behavior. He mentioned that there are hidden cameras on the greenways for our protection. He also recommended not leaving valuables inside your car in plain sight at trail heads. Ms. Franklin asked how to find out what is happening on the trails, such as construction, etc. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if his team is using the social media app, Next Door. Mr. Clemmer replied that they use Twitter and Facebook and Next Door primarily for big events.

Shifting Gears Workshop – Kate Cavazza

Ms. Cavazza of Sustain Charlotte thanked those who attended the July 20th Shifting Gears workshop to promote the implementation of the City's bicycle plan, Charlotte BIKES. Ms. Cavazza explained the reason for the workshop was to get people thinking about how they can personally play a role in helping implement the bicycle plan. Ninety-five people pre-registered and about fifty-five people attended. The exercise involved having people sign-up for two of the six "E's" of a bicycle-friendly city, and then identifying short-term activities they can undertake to help advance that "E". A lot of comments were generated on sticky notes, and Ms. Cavazza will be following up on the suggestions.

Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggested using Facebook Live for those who cannot attend in person. The next workshop will be in November and Sustain Charlotte is planning to continue hosting these quarterly. Ms. Beaupre asked if she is looking at how these suggestions align with Sustain Charlotte's goals. Ms. Cavazza replied that yes, she is using them to connect people who want to work on the same issues. Ms. Beaupre asked if there is a way to join a Google group if you cannot be there in person. Ms. Cavazza said equity was most people's first choice issue. Mr. Zimmerman pointed out that there was only one person of color at the workshop. Mr. Viscount suggested maybe we can do a better job of getting the word out to that community. Ms. Franklin suggested that it may not be so much a need for better advertising as it is simply not having the time available. Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggested maybe there could be two different sessions at two

different times of the day. Mr. Boyer suggested maybe hosting a workshop in the University area because there are lots of bike problems and needs there.

Charlotte bicycle projects, short-term – Ben Miller

Mr. Miller reviewed shorter-term bicycle facility projects that would likely be accomplished through existing capital funding. For the 2017/2018 fiscal year, approximately \$730,000 from the Neighborhood Transportation Program has been tentatively committed to various bicycle lane striping, bicycle boulevard treatments (shared lane markings and neighborhood traffic circles), wayfinding, green pavement markings and bicycle parking. The City also expects to continue to set-aside \$30,000 from the operating budget to support Bike! Charlotte.

Furthermore, the city's recent budget awards some stand-alone funding for corridor implementation, the highest cost initiative recommended in Charlotte BIKES. The road-diet of Parkwood Avenue is now funded, and design funding has been awarded for the design of the the 5th/6th Street cycletrack. Mr. Miller reviewed the location of numerous bicycle facility projects on a map, to include over fifty miles of new signed routes, bicycle lanes and off-street paths by 2020.

The City remains committed to the target of ten new miles of bicycle facilities per year, and should achieve this outcome through the funded CIP through 2022. City staff are planning to request dedicated funding for the bicycle program in FY2019 to help implement the full variety of initiatives recommended in Charlotte BIKES.

Bicycle corridors process and input – Ben Miller

Mr. Miller previewed a mapping application that CDOT developed with the intent of receiving public comment on suggested bicycle corridors and spot improvements for bicycling. The app allows users to place lines and points on a public map, along with comments on suggested improvements. Other users of the app can currently view, like, or comment on other peoples' comments. He requested BAC feedback on the map, and also said he would sent the link to the draft map out after the meeting for BAC members to experiment with the map.

After receiving BAC and internal feedback, the hope is to have this released for public comment within a couple months. There followed some general discussion about the layout and utility of the interface along with nomenclature. Mr. Viscount said he thinks the comments will need to be moderated lest they could become inflammatory and subject to trolling. Mr. Boyer posed the question of whether there is a way to structure what you want comments on specifically. Mr. Raskoskie agreed saying it may easily become a free-for-all. He posited the idea of having video

instructions on the site. Mr. Benton asked if there was some way to link this to the city's traffic calming webpage.

BAC purpose and intent – Haley Beaupre

Ms. Beaupre gave an overview, talking about recent changes in BAC members, Ken Tippet's retirement, and the need to re-establish the committee's goals. She read the current purpose and intent from the by-laws of the committee. The by-laws do indicate that the committee can vote on changes to these by-laws if they want and have the ability to form subcommittees to work on specific goals. She then opened up the floor for a discussion on how other members thought the BAC was functioning, and any recommendations for revisiting the BAC's priorities.

Mr. Raskoskie asked whether anyone has ever served on another City advisory committee. Ms. Franklin said she served on the Transit Advisory Committee, which is similar in terms of the way it operates. Mr. Zimmerman said that each member has a different angle and interests that we bring to the table, which can help elevate the committee's purpose and functionality. Mr. Benton said he likes the idea of forming subcommittees to focus more attention and effort on specific issues of interest. Mr. Boyer said it would be a great step to channel more focus into some of the Es and bring information to CDOT and City Council that they may not be able to access otherwise. Mr. Raskoskie suggested trying to have a closer relationship with City Council. Ms. Beaupre said that looking at how other cities' advisory committees function, they actually have agenda items to vote on and make decisions.

Mr. Raskoskie said the BAC should serve as the voice of the cycling community because we committee members' are typically better informed about what is going on. Ms. Beaupre said it may take more time to put together an agenda with voting items and asked the group how we may be more efficient with these logistics. Ms. Lloyd suggested the group assign one or two people to write letters and give two days to comment. Mr. Raskoskie said we could do a better job of doing our homework between meetings. Mr. Zimmerman suggested this could make more work for Ms. Beaupre as the chairperson. Ms. Franklin said she came here because she read the Dangerous by Design report and was bothered by the injuries described in the document. She said education is the key. Mr. Gladora asked is the implication that we are the voice of the cycling community, because he is not comfortable being a representative for a neighborhood project where he does not live.

Mr. Miller replied that he refers to the BAC as an important focus group that can balance the viewpoints of the non-bicycling general public. Ms. Lloyd asked whether the committee can do better with outreach. Mr. Boyer suggested that perhaps the BAC could go out in small groups to do community engagement rather than invite the public to city hall. He surmised this may make the outreach process more accessible/comfortable, and these small groups could go out on fact-

finding missions and report back. Ms. Swanzy-Parker suggested posting a BAC sign in the conference room window to let people know who we are. She also posed the idea of having a retreat to focus on the topic of the BAC's purpose and intent. Chris Gladora said he likes the idea of having subcommittees for each of the Es. Mr. Raskoskie made a motion to have a special meeting focusing on BAC priorities, seconded by Ms. Franklin. Ms. Beaupre asked the group to think about the format of such a meeting before the next meeting.

Agenda Item # 7 CATS report

There was no CATS report this month.

Agenda Item #8 Greenway report – Dick Winters

Mr. Winters announced there will be a public meeting on July 26 for the Huntingtowne Farms greenway. Mr. Morley made a motion to move the CATS and Greenways reports up on the agenda, seconded by Ms. Lloyd. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #9 Updates

Agenda Item # 10 Other business

Martin Zimmerman announced his resignation from the BAC, saying that he feels it is time for him to step down and give someone else a chance to serve, now that the bicycle plan has been adopted. He said he still intends to be involved in cycling issues and that he is starting a blog on urban planning and architecture in Charlotte. He is looking forward to watching the BAC progress.

Agenda Item #11 Confirm next meeting date and adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for August 22. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.